(c) Some O.Bs. issued for new telephone connections registered after the year 1997 are pending as detailed below:—

Area Sector 17 Vasundhara	Registration Jan/Feb' 99	Pending OBs Six (6)	Reasons Area being technically not feasible for want
Vishal Bhawan Shyam Park, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad	May/June' 98	Three (3)	of underground cable pair.

(d) Telephone connections will be provided by the end of Jan. 2000.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Re-Opening of VPTs in Bihar Sharif Sub-Division Bihar

1264. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department grants permission to open VPT after thorough examination of the applications;

(b) if so, the details of VPTs opened in the month of June, 1999 under Bihar Sharif Sub-Division, Bihar;

(c) whether some of the VPTs were ordered to be closed after their opening, if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the issues that led to their closure have been identified;

(e) whether the responsible officers have also been identified; and

(f) if so, the action Government propose to take to reopen the VPT and to punish the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (f) During June 1999 only one VPT at Arama was opened in Bihar Sharif Sub-Division, Nalanda District strictly in accordance with the recommendation of the concerned BDO Ben as per present policy of the Govenrment. Pending investigation this VPT has been closed on account of public complaints about its location. Keeping in view the public convenience appropriate action will be taken as soon as possible. On completion of the investigation.

District Telecom Office in Meghalaya

1265. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district telecom offices set up and proposed to be set up in the country particularly in the state of Meghalaya during 1999-2000;

(b) by when the said offices are likely to be set up and the financial allocation for the purpose; and

(c) if the answers to part (a) and (b) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) There are 321 Telecom Districts in the country, each headed by Telecom District Engineer/Telecom District Manager/General Manager/ Principal General Manager depending on workload. State of Meghalaya is one such Telecom District headed by General Manager. Telecom District covering a Secondary Switching Area is generally not bifuracated due to administrative and operational reasons.

Speed Post Service in Post Offices of Meghalaya

1266. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the present number of post offices in the various cities of Meghalaya and the number of post offices out of them having speed post services; and